

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANAA 00425 100538Z

15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 IO-14 SWF-02 DRC-01 /150 W

----- 051733

R 091340Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3395

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 425

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, YE, YS, SA, TC

SUBJ: VISIT TO MA'RIB

KUWAIT PASS MUSCAT

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

REF: SANAA 175 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY'S NON-RESIDENT DATT COL. FIFER, AID AFFAIRS OFFICER RUIZ, AND I PAID THREE HOUR VISIT TO MA'RIB MARCH 6 BY YARAF DC-3. AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, WE WERE FIRST OFFICIAL AMERICANS, TO GO THERE SINCE SHORTLY BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1962 REVOLUTION.

2. IN LATE JANUARY 1974, POPULATION OF AREA REQUESTED YARG HELP IN PROTECTING THEM AGAINST PDRY RAIDS AND TO PROVIDE THEM WITH SCHOOLS, CLINC ETC. UNTIL THAT TIME LOCAL POPULATION, WITH ENCOURAGEMENT OF SAUDI AMIR OF NAJRAN, HAD RESISTED YARG EFFORTS TO OBTAIN CONTROL OVER AREA. YARG TROOPS WERE DISPATCHED TO AREA JANUARY 28 IN RESPONSE REQUEST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANAA 00425 100538Z

(REFTEL).

3. EVEN ON THREE HOUR VISIT IT WAS APPARENT THAT AREA BADLY NEEDS HELP. NOT A SINGLE HOUSE IN TOWN OF MA'RIB WAS UNDAMAGED IN CIVIL WAR, DUE TO EGYPTIAN BOMBING. HILLTOP TOWN CORE OF 35-40 IS ABANDONED, ALTHOUGH A FEW HOUSES BELOW ARE STILL OCCUPIED. POPULATION HAS SCATTERED TO NEARBY FARMS. ARMY IS EMPLOYING LOCAL WORKERS TO REPAIR HOUSES AND HAS ESTABLISHED ITSELF IN LARGE STONE HOUSE PROTECTED BY TWO SALADINS AND ANCIENT MACHINE GUNS. MAIN ARMY BASE (UNDERSTRENGTH BRIGADE) IS LOCATED AT UNIMPROVED DIRT AIRSTRIP SEVERAL KILOMETERS DISTANT.

4. ACCORDING TO ARMY'S ADMINISTRATIVE COMMANDER, A NATIVE OF AREA, ECONOMIC AID HAS BEEN PROMISED BY SAUDI ARABIA BUT NOTHING YET PROVIDED. ONLY OTHER AID IN PROSPECT IS ABU DHABI FINANCED SANAA MA'RIB ROAD (UNDP FINANCED FEASIBILITY STUDY IS DUE TO BE COMPLETED NEXT MONTH). IN ADDITION TO FIFTEEN THOUSAND INHABITANTS OF AREA, THERE ARE NOW, ACCORDING TO COMMANDER, SEVENTY THOUSAND (FIGURE UNCONFIRMED) PDRY REFUGEES, MOSTLY BAL HARITH TRIBE OF BAYHAN. THESE PEOPLE ARE LIVING IN TENTS SOME DISTANCE FROM MA'RIB TOWN AND RECEIVE VERY MODEST FOOD AID FROM NAJRAN. THERE ARE NO DOCTORS, NURSES OR CLINICS ANYWHERE IN AREA. EXCEPT FOR IRREGULAR DC-3 FLIGHTS, ONLY WAY OUT IS EIGHT HOURS BY DESERT TRACK TO NAJRAN OR TWELVE HOURS THROUGH MOUNTAINS TO SANAA.

5. COMMANDER TOLD US RAIDS FROM PDRY WERE CONTINUING PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH TROOP MORALE SEEMED GOOD. ARMY AND YARG OBVIOUSLY REALIZE THAT THEY HAVE CRUCIAL OPPORTUNITY TO BRING MA'RIB UNDER GOVT CONTROL IF THEY CAN PROTECT INHABITANTS AND PROVIDE SIMPLE EDUCATION AND MEDICAL CARE. WE INTEND TO SUPPORT THIS EFFORT BY PROVIDING MODEST AMOUNT CRS FOOD AID FOR FOOD-FOR-WORK PROJECTS.

6. DESPITE ARIDITY OF REGION, LOCAL INHABITANTS ASSERTED THAT GROUND WATER AND SEASONAL RUNOFF FROM NEARBY MOUNTAINS COULD SUPPORT INCREASED POPULATION. ANCIENT RUINS OF MA'RIB DAM AND EXTENSIVE IRRIGATION SYSTEM POINT TO MUCH LARGER POPULATION IN AK WIKITY. YARG AT SOME POINT MAY BE ABLE TO UTILIZE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO EXTEND SMALL AMOUNT OF IRRIGATED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANAA 00425 100538Z

FARMING NOW PRACTICED IN AREA.
NEWTON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PARAMILITARY FORCES, PERSONNEL TRAVEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANAA00425
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SANAA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740355/aaaabzey.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SANAA 175 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO MA'RIB KUWAIT PASS MUSCAT
TAGS: PINS, PINT, YE, YS, SA, TC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005